THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The operation of the cable television networks in the country are governed by the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Act, *inter-alia,* provides for manadatory registration of cable operators and does not envisage any restrictions on the number of operators in a given area. Nor is there any legal provision to regulate subscription fee charged by the various channels or cable operators. In case of violation of the provisions of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, action is to be taken by the authorised officers i.e. DM/SDM/Commissioner of Police and such other officers as may be notified by the State/Central Government. In addition, the Chairman of Inter-Media Publicity Co-ordination Committee (IMPCC), of each State, can receive complaints against the cable television network operators and follow them up with the authorised officers for appropriate redrcssal.

AIR Centre in Tejpur, Assam

1558. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date of establishment of AIR Centre in Tejpur, Assam, its coverage area and proposed activities;,

(b) the reasons for not operating any news bulletin and other broadcast even after a lapse of two years; and

(c) the target date set to make it really functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) AIR Tejpur, Assam, was commissioned on 1st July 2000. Its coverage in terms of area is 18.6 thousand sq. kms. The Station is originating folk music, film music and other outside broadcasting recordings produced locally.

(b) Local news in Assamese is broadcast by Guwahati Station which is relayed by all Stations in Assam including Tejpur.

(c) At present Tejpur Station has one transmission. Increase in

transmission time depends on availability on manpower, resources and *inter-sepriority* of programme requirement.

Privatisation of Prasar Bharti

1559. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to partially privatise or joint-venturise the operations of the Prasar Bharti;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the six-member Committee appointed to lay down guidelines and a road map to prepare Prasar Bharti to adapt to new technologies and the shift in broadcast paradigms has submitted its report; and

(d) if so, the details of the recomendations made and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) A group of six officers has been constituted by Prasar Bharti to examine the feasibility of privatization/joint venturisation of Metro Channel.

(c) No such committee has been consitituted by Prasar Bharti.

(d) Docs not arise.

Cases investigated by CBI on telecasting of DD programmes

† 1560. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many cases related with the programmes being telecast by Doordarshan arc being investigated by CBI;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.